

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the Claims as follows. Deletions are shown in ~~strike through~~ and insertions are shown in underline.

1 - 11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently amended)      An animal tag comprising,  
a penetrating component having two ear penetrating members joined by a strip of intermediate material,  
a complementary component having a locking portion for each penetrating member, and  
a joining portion extending between and joined to the locking portions,  
wherein the arrangement is such that the ear penetrating members are designed to be passed through the ear of an animal and to lock ~~onto~~into the locking portions to sandwich the ear within a gap between the penetrating component and complementary component and the joining portion extends into the gap ~~so as to~~to act as a spacer between the ear and complementary component to provide air circulation regions around directly open to the atmosphere about the two ear penetrating members where the gap is increased in width compared with a region of the gap between the joining portion and the ear.

13. (Previously presented)      The animal tag according to claim 12 wherein each ear penetrating member comprises a skin penetrating head joined to the strip of intermediate material by a tubular portion, the join between each skin penetrating head and tubular portion being formed as shoulder adapted to cooperate with one of the locking portions to lock the penetrating component and complementary component together.

14. (Previously presented)      The animal tag according to claim 13 wherein each skin penetrating head comprises a central supporting portion of moulded plastics material provided with at least two thin flanges extending from the central supporting portion, the

at least two thin flanges having sharp edges and meeting at a sharp point forward of the supporting portion.

15. (Previously presented) The animal tag according to claim 14 wherein each of the locking portions comprises a cap which substantially covers and surrounds each skin penetrating head.

16. (Previously presented) The animal tag according to claim 12 wherein the strip of intermediate material comprises plastic material which is sufficiently flexible to be bent from a substantially flat configuration when regions of the ear penetrating members joined to the strip of intermediate material are at their maximum separation to a looped configuration when the regions of the ear penetrating members are squeezed towards each other.

17. (Previously presented) The animal tag according to claim 12 having attached thereto at least one of, a flag, a transponder, any form of data concerning the animal to which the animal tag is attached, any form of diagnostic device, electronic device, any form of treatment device, a chemical agent, any form of signalling device, and any form of locating device.

18. (Previously presented) The animal tag according to claim 17 having attached thereto a flag and a transponder.

19. (Previously presented) The animal tag according to claim 18 wherein the transponder is housed in a housing attached to the flag

20. (Previously presented) The animal tag according to claim 19 wherein the housing comprises a first housing component having a recessed portion and second housing component joined to the first housing component by a hinge, whereby the first and second housing components may be folded into overlapping relationship to cover the recess and so form the housing.

21. (Previously presented) The animal tag according to claim 8 wherein the transponder comprises a wafer secured beneath the strip of intermediate material and between the two ear penetrating members.

22. (Currently amended) The animal tag according to claim 12 wherein each locking portion comprises a slot and each penetrating member comprises a skin penetrating head for passing through the slot.

23 - 28. (Canceled)